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PelhamNEWS

Published by Postmedia

'I've never been this muddy'



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

About 250 very dirty people participated in the Pelham Mudfest Challenge at Bissell's Hideaway, raising funds for Rotary Club of Fonthill projects.

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

They pulled themselves across slippery, muddy ground and waded through ponds of mucky water as they made their way through the obstacle course set up at Bissell's Hideaway.

And Saturday's rainy weather just added to the fun for the more than 250 people who participated in Rotary Club of Fonthill's Pelham Mudfest Challenge.

"I've never done anything like this, ever," said Leanne Greenwood after completing an obstacle course with a team of family and friends.

They were drenched and covered in mud by the time they completed the 23 obstacles set up along the six-kilometre course.

"I've never been this muddy, no. I normally tip-toe around the mud pud-

dles, not dive right in them," she said with a laugh.

Her husband, Jeremy, said they signed up for the event to challenge themselves, and they definitely found the course to be challenging.

"It was pretty awesome," Leanne said. "I'm very proud of myself."

"And Rotary is a great organization to be supporting," she added.

Event organizer Paul Allen said the event again was held to support Well-spring Niagara and End Polio Now, but this year it was hoped the event would also raise enough to support local projects in the community.

The Rotarian said it's the fourth time the club has organized a Mudfest event in the past three years, and every time it draws more participants.

Continued on Page 2

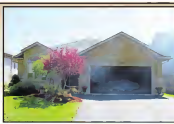


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UPFRONT

Getting muddy to raise some money

From Page 1

"We've even had some registrants from Toronto. That's good. It's superb," he said. "It'd be nice if it was a little bit warmer and people could relax, but people aren't in a rush to go so they're having a good time."

"It was slippery out there, but it was great and people had such a good time."

Allen said Mudfest is not a timed race, which makes it family-friendly and more fun than competitive.

And through the events, Allen said, the club has "raised some good money for great causes."

"These people who come out and support this, they're giving back," Allen said. "It's incredible."

Club president Frank Adamson said he came up with the idea for Mudfest after helping out during a Grapes of Wrath event in St. Catharines.

Bissell's Hideaway offered the perfect venue for the Mudfest obstacle course that attracts more participants each year — growing from slightly more than 100 people when it was first held, he said.

"What I really like hearing is people finishing the event today saying, 'Oh yeah, I'm coming back!'" Adamson

said. Allen said dozens of people volunteered to keep Mudfest running as planned, while local businesses chipped in, too, including Bissell's, Pen-Financial Credit Union, Churchill Natural Meats and SoBeys. "We couldn't have done it without them," he said.

"It's an amazing venue. The support we got from Bissell's is over the top."

Any food left over from the event barbecue was donated to Pelham Cares, Allen said. "It just keeps on giving."

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PHOTOS BY ALLAN BERNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Splashing through a mucky pond was one of 23 challenges at the Pelham Mudfest Challenge at Bissell's Hideaway.

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New municipal drain policies approved

DAVE AUGUSTYN
 Mayor of Pelham

You may recall that last fall town staff sent out several notices requesting payment for maintenance done on some of the town's municipal drains. There were many questions about the bills and Staff even had to correct some bills.

Council listened to these concerns and directed Staff to hold an open house in October to answer any questions or concerns.

As a follow-up, council directed staff to re-examine and revise the town's municipal drain policies and procedures. Council approved those policy changes on Monday, May 2.

A municipal drain is a legislated drainage system for a sub-watershed within the town. Most municipal drains are either open ditches or closed systems such as pipes or tiles buried in the ground. While municipal drains are primarily located in rural agricultural areas, they can also drain parts of the town's urban areas. Some municipal drains could also include structures such as storm water detention ponds, culverts and bridges.

A town may only create a municipal drain under the authority of the Drainage Act. Municipal drains include three key elements:

Community Project: Landowners who



Pelham's town hall.

FILE PHOTO

need to solve a drainage problem may submit a petition under the Drainage Act to request the establishment of a municipal drain. If certain criteria are met, the town

appoints an engineer to prepare a report, identifying the proposed solution to the problem and how the costs will be shared. The act outlines various meetings and

appeal stages before the community project can be approved.

Legal Solution: After any appeals, the municipality passes a bylaw, adopting the solution. The municipality then has the authority and responsibility to construct the drain. The cost of the work is assessed to the lands in the watershed in the same ratios as contained within the engineer's report.

Municipal infrastructure: Once constructed, a municipal drain becomes part of that municipality's infrastructure. The town, through our drainage superintendent, is responsible for repairing and maintaining the municipal drain.

The new municipal drain maintenance and billing policy aims to ensure that drain maintenance and billing occurs in a consistent, fair and timely manner; this policy includes the provision that the town must hold an annual open house to inform the community about municipal drainage matters.

The new municipal drain re-apportion of assessment policy helps ensure that the town follows prescribed mechanisms to re-apportion the assessment of properties within a municipal drain watershed when lots are created or amended.

Thanks to those who worked together with the town to improve our policies and procedures on this very important part of our town's infrastructure.

Region needs a math lesson

I am starting to think Niagara Region needs to invest in a math tutor.

It seems the Region has a great deal of difficulty with numbers. And by difficulty, I mean that on a Monday, the Region might think 2+2=4 and then on Friday will tell you 2+2 actually equals 400. Then when you ask how they managed to produce such an erroneous sum, regional staff will tell you there were some unexpected problems in the calculation.

Once again, the Region has reported major infrastructure projects are costing more than originally estimated. The water treatment plants at Decoy Falls and Welland will cost an additional \$385,500 and \$442,841 respectively to complete.



GRANT
 LAFRECH

Neither of these cases is on the level of a Burgoyne Bridge financial disaster, but it does share some features in common.

Just like the bridge, the work on the water treatment plants has exceeded projected costs due to unforeseen problems. However unlike the bridge, the water treatment plant projects remain within their budget.

And that is where things seem to get a little weird. I know accounting is the most boring thing in the known

universe, but stay with me because you need to hear this.

We should admit at the outset that budgets for big infrastructure projects — the Decoy plant is budgeted at \$9 million and the Welland plant at \$26.6 million — are designed to account for the possibility of expenses due to unforeseen circumstances.

This is just prudent. As Donald Rumsfeld once said, in any endeavour you will face known unknowns, known unknowns and unknown unknowns. Those last ones, the unknown unknowns, can be a real pain in the backside, not to mention the wallet.

Still, those skilled at producing project budgets using best practices and experience, can set a budget that can accommodate possible

unknowns without breaking the bank.

Unless, it seems, we're talking about Niagara Region.

What kind of unforeseen issues were the planners at the Region expecting, that they needed to build in a budget cushion large enough to accommodate nearly half a million dollars in cost overruns per project?

I know staffers can look good if they come under budget, but that seems particularly excessive.

Niagara Falls councillor Bart Maves put it well when he said if you estimate a project will cost \$10 million, you don't then set a budget of \$30 million.

This ongoing arithmetic problem should be top of mind for regional coun-

cillors who now face the task of hiring a new chief administrative officer. That person will set the tone and direction for these sorts of projects for years to come.

Clearly, Niagara needs someone who can manage them, assist regional staff in planning them, and ensure cost projections will be accurate. At this point, hiring someone for political reasons — someone without the depth of experience and skill-set to turn Niagara's infrastructure ship around — would be a failure of truly epic proportions.

Regional bylaws apparently need some work, too. Although regional staff have to report cost overruns to council, the rules don't require them to do that

before the money is spent.

Since cost overruns on major projects can significantly impact the regional budget, councillors should at the very least be informed as the project dynamics change.

These water plants are nearly completed, so all things being equal we shouldn't hear any more about costs rising. But infrastructure spending isn't going to stop.

Upgrading and repairing aging infrastructure is a major issue these days across Canada. Like most other communities, Niagara still has lots of work left to do.

It just should be able to do it in a more efficient fashion.

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Dorothy Rungeling cuts 105th birthday cake

WAYNE CAMPBELL

Special to Postmedia Network

Dorothy Rungeling is glad being along at 105.

Pelham's aviation celebrity and most senior author celebrated her birthday last Thursday during a luncheon with friends at Lookout Ridge Retirement Community.

"I'm doing fine," she said in an interview, but while adding, "My eyesight is gone, hearing is gone and I can't write because of my hand."

She still hopes to do some writing.

"I do miss it. There are stories I would like to finish about places around Fenwick."

In her 90s, she started writing books about her life as "The Flying Housewife" in the 1950s, about growing up in

Pelham and about her adoptive mother, poet Eibelweyn Wetherald.

At the same time, she taught younger seniors in her condominium building how to use computers.

Rungeling received the Order of Canada in 2003 for her contributions to aviation as a female racing pilot, instructor, commercial operator and writer for magazines and newspapers.

She was the first Canadian woman to hold an airline transport licence, the first to solo a helicopter, earned numerous air race trophies and was awarded the Amelia Earhart Medal.

The airport in south Pelham she once managed, now bears her name.

The airport commission

renamed it Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport last fall. Airports named after female pilots are rare.

Rungeling continues to encourage women pilots as a life member of the Ninety-Nines, an international women's aviation association.

Throughout the day, gifts, flowers and greetings flowed into Lookout Ridge for her.

"I needed help to get it all up to my room," she said last Thursday afternoon.

She planned to play *The Old Grey Mare* on her harmonica at the retirement community's evening dinner last Thursday.

"If I still have the energy, that is," she said the onetime member of a country band.



WAYNE CAMPBELL/PHOTO
Dorothy Rungeling is served a cake to mark her 105th birthday during lunch last Thursday with longtime friends at Lookout Ridge Retirement Community. Behind her from left are: Lorna Brandtlatzer, Mary Beattie, Goy Smith and Helgi Kernaghan.

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Stan Pettit dies at 80

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

At the time of his political debut, Stan Pettit held title as the longest-

serving mayor in Ontario.

A verbose speaker in the public forum, Pettit had put in double duty as both the head of Wainfleet coun-

cil and as the township's lone member of regional council for 27 years.

Had he hit the 30-year mark, he would have matched the time he

worked for Inco.

Pettit died May 9 at the age of 80.

Friends and colleagues are remembering Pettit for being a hard worker and committed to his community "folks" and region.

After serving on the township's recreation board, and losing his first aldermanic election to a neighbour, Pettit was elected to town council in 1968. He became mayor in 1972.

His political career also included 12 years on the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board, including as its chairman.

One of Pettit's former colleagues, Port Colborne CAO Scott Luey, said Pettit was "Wainfleet through and through."

Luey only worked with Pettit for a year, but said he was a kind mayor and a kind person, always respectful of municipal staff. In return, Luey said, Pettit was well respected by staff at Wainfleet township hall and at the region.

Pettit left politics after his defeat in 2000 — by 89 votes — to Gord Harty, now deceased.

But even after retirement, Luey said, Pettit kept "an ear to the ground."

Pettit played the role of adviser to council members who served after him. He helped to mentor current Mayor April Jeffs.

"He really had the best interest of the public in mind. He sort of stuck around after being off council and stayed up to date on the issues," Luey said.

Bob Saracino, a former Port Colborne mayor and regional councillor, said Pettit always had his arms full of books and papers when attending council meetings.

"He was a very knowledgeable man and I had the pleasure of working with him ... he

was a very astute man," Saracino said.

Then Pelham's mayor, Ralph Beamer noted soon after Pettit's election loss that Wainfleet's mayor paid attention to detail when it came to reading reports. Beamer in 2000 joked that Pettit must have "had stock in a highlighter company because all the lines were coloured in yellow."

More than a decade later Pettit was still remembered as a good source of information. Saracino said Pettit was a person who could talk about any subject. When any topic came up, he said Pettit always knew something about it, no matter what it was.

"He was on pretty much every commission there was," Saracino said with a laugh. Saracino said Pettit touched many people's lives and will be missed.

"I'm very, very sorry we lost a good friend ... he was a good person."

Former vice-chairman of Niagara Parks Commission, Archie Katzman said he was saddened to hear of his friend's death.

"I crossed paths with him quite a bit ... he was always a happy-go-lucky guy and his handshake was gold," Katzman said fondly.

Pettit is remembered as having a great laugh and always having a smile on his face. Katzman recalled his friend was always happy and greeted people with a warm smile.

He said Pettit was a "great man and great councillor."

He was also one known not to be terse with his council chamber opinions.

Then a Lincoln regional councillor, Jill Hildreth once said of Pettit: "He wouldn't say in three words what could be said in 30."

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FORM 6, Municipal Act, 2001

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land(s) described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on June 15, 2016, at the Pelham Municipal Building, 20 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Pelham Municipal Building, 20 Pelham Town Square, Fonthill.

Description of Lands:

Roll No. 27 32 020 021 00600 0000; 1690 Rice Rd, Fonthill; PIN 64061-0255(LT); Part Township Lot 161 Thorold, designated Part 1 Plan S9R9256; Pelham; File No. 14-04

Minimum Tender Amount: \$32,879.46

Roll No. 27 32 020 021 00600 0000; 186 Highway 20 E, Fonthill, PIN 64061-0458(LT); Part Township Lot 161 Thorold, as in R0246955, except Part 1 on SN313468; subject to an easement in gross over Part 2 on SN313468 as in SN313468; Town of Pelham; File No. 14-05 Minimum Tender Amount: \$51,235.80

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit in the form of a money order or of a bank draft or cheque certified by a bank or trust corporation payable to the municipality and representing at least 20 per cent of the tender amount. Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the land(s) to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers.

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes, HST if applicable and the relevant land transfer tax. The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender visit www.OntarioTaxSales.ca, or if no internet access available, contact Elaine Ronald, Town of Pelham Taxation Clerk, at 905-892-2907 ext. 338.

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Pelham Farmers' Market Bucks Winner

May 12, 2016

Trish Rybski



Fireworks Rules and Safety

Victoria Day is on Monday, May 23, 2016 and the Town of Pelham wants to ensure you know all of the applicable fireworks rules and safety tips.

The Town of Pelham Fireworks By-Law 2951(2008) is very comprehensive regarding restrictions in the use and sale of Fireworks.

For more details, please visit
pelham.ca/fireworks.

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- (c) intend to return to school on a full-time basis during the next academic year;
- (d) be a student in a secondary, post-secondary, vocational or technical program in a program related to the corresponding position.

For more information, and to apply online, visit pelham.ca/career-opportunities.



SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, June 4th
9 am – 1pm | Launch Day Kickoff

Join us at Marlene Stewart Streit Park (55 Park Lane, Fonthill) to learn about our free summer activities. Enjoy skateboard demonstrations, giveaways, live music, food and refreshments, and much more!
Visit pelham.ca/healthy-kids for details.

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Ages 8 - 12 Focusing on skills, balance and style, skateboarders will have 2 ½ hours of instruction, 3 days per week. Campers will be placed in groups based on age and ability level. Whether you are a true beginner or working on improving your skating, you will enjoy what this camp offers.

Visit pelham.ca/camps to learn more and to register.

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Ages 10 – 12 This program provides campers with an interactive opportunity to learn fire safety and gain insight into the career of a firefighter and their daily routine. This program encourages campers to work together, instilling team spirit and leadership skills.

Visit pelham.ca/camps to learn more and to register.

IN BRIEF

Wording still hazy in Region pot report

A report outlining Niagara Region's stance on marijuana is being passed back to staff for the second time.

The document, which

the public health and social services committee sent back to staff last month, was again referred back last Tuesday as councillors requested stronger wording to outline the municipality's stance regarding pot regulation and control.

Several councillors asked that the resolution contained within the report emphasize Niagara's opposition of smoking of any kind.

The Region's medical officer of health, Dr. Valerie Jaeger, previously said the report was not intended as support for legalization of marijuana. Instead, it was an avenue for public health to request that strict

health-focused regulations be put in place should the federal government move forward with plans to legalize cannabis.

The report will be reviewed and is expected to return to committee May 31.

Supportive living facilities on Region's agenda

George Marshall wants the Region to take a closer look at privately-run supportive living facilities.

The Welland regional councillor asked that his colleagues support the Rose City's quest that the provincial government

develop legislation requiring privately-run supportive living facilities be licenced and registered across Ontario.

The issue is being pressed in Welland after complaints arose from residents about a local facility.

Marshall asked during Tuesday's public health and social services committee meeting that council support Welland's letter to the province.

His fellow councillors asked for more information, including the report from Welland council, before making a decision.

The issue will return to public health May 31.

Falls marijuana dispensary busted

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

Niagara Regional Police have shut down a Niagara Falls marijuana dispensary and charged the owner.

Officers obtained a search warrant after receiving information that marijuana was being sold illegally at a Queen Street location to people who

possessed a medical marijuana licence. Police arrested one male and seized marijuana.

marijuana products and cash.

The sale of medical marijuana that isn't authorized by Health Canada is illegal, police said.

Jason Allen, 29, of Niagara Falls, is charged with two counts of possession of a controlled substance for the purpose of trafficking and one count of possession of proceeds of crime.

Police seized about \$11,000 in marijuana and \$2,272 in cash.

Dr. Kimberly Dobson



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College to build teaching distillery

You could say it's a college determined not to stand "still" in fermentation science.

In that spirit, Niagara College — home to the country's first commercial teaching winery and teaching brewery, at its Canadian food and wine institute — is adding another specialty to its menu.

In another first for Canada, it is creating an artisan liquor distilling program, to launch in September 2017.

The one-year graduate certificate program will feature hands-on training and classroom work in practical distilling, its science, analysis and management.

A new 2,000-square-foot on-campus teaching distillery, worth about \$1 million, is also part of the package.

The distillery will become part of the existing wine visitor and education centre at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus, with construction to begin this summer and likely

be complete by year's end.

Craig Youdale, dean of the Niagara College Canadian Food and Wine Institute, said the program will start with a standard September to April school year.

"As we move along and the industry grows, we might be able to increase it somewhere down the road, like we did with our brewmaster program," he said.

Youdale said the program expansion is tying into the rise in craft distilling and responding to provincial legislation changes that are smoothing the way for small-batch distilling.

"We know there's a lot of anticipation about the growth of this industry," Youdale said.

"It is a natural extension of the brewing and winemaking programs.

"This is a next phase of growth, maybe not as massive and overwhelming as we've seen in the craft brewing industry, but I think you're going to see a significant growth of artisan distill-



JULIE JOCSAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Craig Youdale, dean of the Niagara College Canadian Food and Wine Institute, looks forward to a new teaching distillery that will open in 2017 at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus.

ing in the next few years.

"There's a lot of anticipation," he said. "And we want to be ahead of the curve."

The program has been in the works for about two years, and is supported by a number of distillers, including Beamsville's Dillon's Small Batch Distillers.

It is aimed to people with an interest in distillation and who have already completed an Ontario diploma or degree — in particular those with a background in sciences and in programs such as culinary and wine and beer.

The program will also be a

pathway for existing students from the college's brewmaster and brewery operations management, wine and viticulture technician, and culinary innovation and food technology programs.

It will also prepare brewmaster students for certificate and diploma programs

offered by the Institute of Brewing and Distilling in England.

In its first year, 20 students will be accepted in a program open for admissions next February.

Niagara Catholic District School Board capped its Catholic Education Week with its annual Distinguished Alumni Celebration.

Nine recipients were recognized during a recent luncheon, including a family doctor and doctor of music, entrepreneurs, philanthropists, a priest, a lawyer, a winemaker and a professional athlete-turned educator.

The honouree include Rob Robbins, Lydia Tomek, Joseph Pillitteri, Esther Jim Mulligan, Hector Pothier, Dr. Jennifer Frendo, Christina Le Rose, Anthony Lacavera and Catherine Lacavera.

Don Fraser's Chalkboard Niagara education column runs weekly. For tips and releases e-mail him at donfraser@postmedia.com.

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LOCAL NEWS

Firefighter's home destroyed by blaze

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Carl Chambers was surrounded by the ashes of almost everything he owned, searching through the ruins for anything he could find.

People are often thankful after fires for the items they were able to recover, he said as he looked through the blackened debris last Sunday morning.

But at first — judging by the extent of the damage — he doubted he'd be able to retrieve any of his cherished keepsakes he collected throughout his life.

Chambers was in his backyard at about 6 p.m. last Sat-

urday working on his garden when he heard the smoke alarm ringing within the house he owned for about two years.

He ran inside to find flames in his living room.

"I put the fire out with two fire extinguishers," he said. "But I guess by that time it was inside the walls."

Wainfleet fire Chief Harry Flagg was nearby on Station Street, and said he arrived at the home at 11558 Highway 3 within minutes of receiving the call.

But already, he could tell the fire would not be easily extinguished.

"It was puffing black smoke

already," Flagg said, adding the fire quickly spread from the walls to the attic.

Volunteers from throughout Wainfleet arrived soon after Flagg, and began fighting the blaze. A team of five firefighters from Port Colborne also responded with a tanker truck.

"But it was going pretty good by the time everyone got here," Flagg said.

Chambers has been a volunteer firefighter in Wainfleet for about one year, working to save the lives and property of his neighbours. But despite his best efforts — and those of his colleagues — he was unable to save his own home.

"I put my gear on and tried

to help," he said, adding he felt as though his efforts were of little use against the fire that tore through the building.

It burned for more than an hour until almost nothing remained.

Chambers as well as his animals, including two German shepherds, made it through the blaze relatively unscathed.

Friends have offered him accommodations until he can make arrangements with his insurance company.

But last Sunday, he was most concerned about items that were irreplaceable.

Chambers was a corporal with the British Army, sta-



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Carl Chambers looks through old photographs recovered after his home was destroyed by a fire in Wainfleet Saturday.

tioned in Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo and Ireland during the 16 years he served with the military.

He had medals from each of those conflicts, as well as a framed letter from Queen Elizabeth, thanking him for his service.

"It's all in there," he said, gesturing towards the blackened ruins of his home.

But his own keepsakes weren't as important to him as those that had belonged to his grandfather.

His grandfather, Sgt. Tug Wilson, defended England in the Second World War, and Chambers kept the medals he earned alongside his own.

"That's what I care about most," he said.

Eventually as he sifted through the wreckage with the help of a few friends from the fire department, items started emerging from the ashes.

Among them, a steel chest filled with newspaper clippings and other items, photographs taken during his years with the British Army, and one of the six medals that belonged to his grandfather.

He sat among the wreckage, thoughtfully looking through the keepsakes he'd recovered from the fire.

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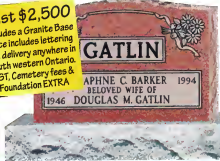
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LOCAL NEWS



ALLAN DENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The current home of the South Niagara Canoe Club at the Penfinancial Credit Union Flatwater Community Centre. The club is moving into the Welland International Flatwater Centre this summer.

Niagara Canoe Club changing home base to flatwater centre

ALLAN DENNER
Postmedia Network

The Welland International Flatwater Centre has a new tenant.

The Welland Recreational Canal Corp. interim board voted last Tuesday to allow the South Niagara Canoe Club to set up shop at the flatwater centre.

Continued on Page 14



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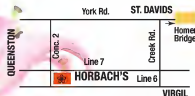
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LOCAL NEWS

Niagara Canoe Club changing home base to flatwater centre

From Page 11

And councillors hope their presence at the WIFC will make it apparent to Welland residents that local people are using the waterway.

"I'm really happy to hopefully see this move to the north course at the WIFC," said Ward 5 Coun. Mike Petraschenko.

"I think it will be great with the amount of people and residents who will be able to see the activity at the new venue. I think it's great for publicity to see how active your club is."

Ward 4 Coun. Pat Chiochio said people used to see motorboats in the canal there all the time, "and people enjoyed watching them — something taking place on the canal."

"To see this happening, mak-

ing it busier... I think it's a great move," he said.

Petrachenko pointed out that the WIFC interim manager Richard Dalton also manages the canoe club.

"You wear two hats which is great," he said. "How will handling a conflict with events going on there if the SNCC wants to practice?"

Dalton said the SNCC members would slowly make their way to a part of the canal north of the flatwater course.

"This way there's effectively zero impact on local events," he said.

"At other events... we will just reschedule programming. We're happy to do that."

The canoe club currently operates from the Penfinancial Credit

Union Flatwater Community Centre.

The Notre Dame Rowing Club and the city's canoe and kayak rental program will continue running at the community centre north of Thorold Road, along with other users.

"There will still be quite a bit of activity, the lions share will be the Notre Dame Rowing Club," he said.

Dalton said the canoe club will fence-off a compound at the WIFC for storing equipment. Some of the equipment will be kept in shipping containers.

He said security equipment will also be added "to ensure that people aren't able to enter the facility after hours."

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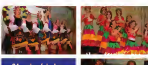
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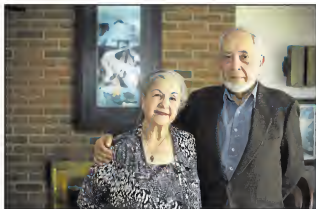
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LOCAL NEWS



JULIE MOESAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Juan Fernandez is one of the seven founders of Brock University. He is photographed with his wife Hortensia Fernandez.

Brock faculty founder remembers a charmed journey

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

It was 1964, Spain was in the throes of its dictator Francisco Franco.

Juan Fernandez had enough of the stifling repression in his country.

Soon, a new world was to open up for the young Madrid professor.

Wheels were set in motion for Fernandez to become one of seven founding members of a tiny start-up in St. Catharines called Brock University.

There, he would stay to teach for decades, as Brock ballooned into a Niagara institution with an international reach.

Fernandez himself had grown up in a Spanish village near the Pyrenees. For a time, his family went into hiding in the mountains during the Spanish Civil War. As an adult, he became a lawyer in Madrid — the city where he met his wife Hortensia.

In another career turn, he began teaching Spanish at a University of Maryland campus in Spain in the early

1960s. His students were U.S. troops and their dependents stationed in that country.

"This is how I started getting spoiled with the North American way of life," Fernandez said with a laugh, inside his south St. Catharines home. And so, he and his fiancée took action.

In 1964, Fernandez placed an ad seeking employment in a Canadian Association of University Teachers magazine.

"They made me pay \$1 for it," Fernandez, 85, recalled with a smile. "And later I received a positive proposal from Brock. I didn't even know who the

Mere weeks after that, he'd left his home in Madrid and flew to Toronto alone — an unfamiliar territory "that was like being on the moon for me."

"But it was amazing to be there," he said. "Someone was at the airport with a sign that said 'Brock University.'"

Continued on next page

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LOCAL NEWS

Brock faculty founder remembers a charmed journey

From previous page

"And the first thing the immigration officer told me is 'there's no such thing as a university in St. Catharines'," he corrected them.

Fernandez made his way to a rented home on Sovereign Drive in the Garden City. Brock classes started in September, and he began teaching Spanish "practically immediately".

"We thought at the time, 'now, we are actually doing a very serious thing. We are beginning a university,'" he said of a group that.

It was the headlong start of a teaching career that saw him rise to

director of the Romance Language department in what's now Brock's Hispanic and Latin American Studies program.

Those first 127 Brock students studied in what were hardly classic classrooms. At first, they were jammed into the basement of St. Paul Street United Church (now Silver Spire).

By October, the school moved to "Glenridge Campus" in a former refrigeration factory on Lockhart Drive below the Niagara Escarpment.

Within two years, operations and classes had moved atop the Escarp-

ment to the new Decew campus and its permanent home.

Meanwhile, Hortensia was still in Spain and unable to leave the country unless she was married.

Part of the solution — as recounted in local articles — was to get hitched by proxy. Juan had his marriage in Dec. 18 at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria in St. Catharines, and Hortensia Fernandez became his legal bride in a Jan. 9 ceremony in her Spanish parish church.

"I was spared a lot of the nervousness most bridegrooms fear," said Fernandez in a Dec. 19, 1964

Niagara Falls Review article after his wedding. Hortensia joined him May the next year from Madrid.

"Oh yes, it was funny, you went to church and did the whole ceremony, but there was no groom," Hortensia recalled 50 years later, on the beginning to a lasting marriage that produced two sons, John and Joe.

Early academic years through the turn of the 1970s were collegiate ones the couple describe as "very familial" with Brock's first president the late James Gibson overseeing a small academic family.

"One day I saw Dr. Gibson rid-

ing to the university on his bicycle in shorts," said Hortensia with a laugh. "It was a shock for me ... Spain was much more conservative than this."

Gatherings with conversation and meals — one a Spanish peña cooked by Hortensia — were often held at faculty members' houses.

In the early years, there was a bond among them all.

This was an energetic team working to put their school on the map. And of the original faculty, Fernandez said he believes he's the one of only two who are still alive.

"The first couple of years for us was all new and exciting, we were very enthusiastic," he said, of a Brock career that ended with his retirement in 1996. "The first year I spent \$10,000 on Spanish books. I had never had the ability to spend so much money."

His runs through several anecdotes from the 1970s and 1980s. One was the stress felt by American draft dodgers from the Vietnam War who became students.

Otherwise, "there were no bad memories," he said.

"The classes were (sometimes presented) as a kind of a game, which the students appreciated very much. It was relaxing."

Over the years, Brock became even more of a family affair, with a number of extended Fernandez family studying and graduating from the university.

It was also where an enduring family friendship began with Robert Gaiero, one of Fernandez' early students.

"I was very privileged, because he is a natural teacher," said Gaiero, who lives in St. Catharines and has taught high school there. "For Juan, teaching is an art, not a science, and he was the kind of person that would bring people into the department."

"Brock was so fortunate in having a man like that ... liberal minded, very affable, so easy to talk to, fair and courteous with his students. "Juan has been the brother I never had, and more than a mentor," he said. "We've all watched each others' children grow."

Their mutual connection to Brock was reignited in October 2014, when Gaiero, now 70, was at a Brock convocation for his honours BA in art history.

"I asked the dean if Juan could do the honours on stage," he said.

"They got him up there and he put the hood on me that day. It was a special moment, it was very symbolic."

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LOCAL NEWS

Marineland files lawsuit against teen filmmaker

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Marineland is suing a 19-year-old California filmmaker for \$1 million over a movie it alleges uses its intellectual property.

The suit, filed May 10 at the Superior Court of Justice in St. Catharines, claims the upcoming film *Black Water*, produced and directed by Humboldt State University student Zach Affolter, uses video and images "illegally taken" inside the park by someone hired as a seasonal employee.

The film, according to its Facebook page, "tells the sad story of Kiska, a captive orca at Marineland, Ontario. She struggles to overcome her pain and despair as they herd her apart."

Through his company Rising Sun Productions, Affolter has released a series of short films on YouTube about other killer whales in captivity such

as SeaWorld's Tilikum and the Miami Seaquarium's Lolita. The film's Facebook Page says it will be released online May 20. Two teaser trailers released last year contained voice over accompanying images of Kiska, with statements like

"I wish you could understand this cold, empty feeling that continues to destroy me" and "I don't even have the spirit to kill myself. It feels like I am drowning, in black water."

Marineland's statement of claim said the park has been cleared of all allegations of animal abuse, and Affolter produced the film "for the purpose of causing damage to Marineland for commercial gain."

According to the statement of claim, the images provided to Affolter by an unknown defendant breach the park's 2015 Seasonal Team Member Employment Agreement, which forbids "any photograph, prints or

other digital media" on park property without written consent.

Likewise, under Terms & Conditions on its website, Marineland states photographs and videos taken at the park "may not be used for commercial purpose."

Earlier this year, hidden-camera footage shot inside the park by a summer employee last year sparked an angry response from Marineland. The footage, focussing mainly on the park's beluga whales, was used by the L.A.-based non-profit group Last Chance for Animals to highlight the "insufficient care" of Marineland's 46 beluga whales.

Marineland called the video a "hate-filled rant" and said the group's allegations are "completely and knowingly false."

Marineland believes *Black Water*, with a title alluding to the hugely successful documentary *Blackfish*, will

"secure income for animal activist organizations and, as such, is for a commercial purpose."

Reached last Thursday, Affolter said Marineland is never directly mentioned in the film, and the faces of all visitors and employees have been blurred out. He rejects the park's claim it is a commercial venture.

"*Black Water* is meant as an educational, non-commercial film that dives into the moral question behind keeping cetaceans (dolphins and other whales) in captivity," he said via e-mail. "The film is a narrative set in Kiska's perspective that explores what these sentient, social creatures might feel when placed in a captive environment."

The film will no longer be released May 20, but Affolter still intends to release it "at the right time."

He intends to defend himself against the lawsuit, though he can't "afford legal

protection."

"It's sad that we live in a world where people are bullied and pushed around just for speaking their mind."

It marks the ninth lawsuit Marineland has launched in the past four years.

Niagara Falls animal activist Mike Garrett, who is being sued by the park for \$1.5 million, calls it "disgusting" the park would use Ontario's court system to sue a teen-aged marine biology student bringing attention to Kiska, Canada's only captive killer whale.

"What's next, will they sue an eight-year-old girl who writes a poem about captive belugas?" he says. "I think this is part of a wider legal strategy Marineland is attempting to employ where they are trying to keep any video or photos taken inside the park under their copyright control, and prevent the public from seeing anything that could damage their brand."

In 2013, the park sued Gar-

rett for \$1 million in general damages and \$500,000 in punitive damages after a series of protests. It is still unresolved.

Contacted last Thursday, Marineland issued a statement saying Kiska is "healthy and extremely well cared for," and was recently inspected by independent investigators.

While the park "encourages our guests to take as many personal photos as they wish," it resents its intellectual property being used for a "propaganda film."

"Like every private person or business in Canada, Marineland objects to the unlicensed and illegal theft of its images to make money."

"Marineland does not object to the fair expression of opinion by anyone and fully supports free speech. Marineland does not support illegal and/or defamatory conduct."

Marineland opens for its 55th season on May 21.

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Costs drive up for treatment plant projects

MARVANE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Niagara Region will dig deeper into its well of money to pay for upgrades to the Decew Falls and Welland water treatment plants.

Work on both multimillion-dollar projects has exceeded construction contract amounts.

Region staff went before the public works committee last Tuesday asking that additional spending be approved.

Paul Smeltzer, director of water and wastewater services, stressed the Decew and Welland projects are still within their respective \$9-million and \$26.6-million budgets initially set by the Region.

Both have, however, exceeded their construction contracts that total \$7.7 million for Decew and \$22 million for Welland, as well as their contingency funds.

As a result, staff were asking for an additional \$395,500 for contract work at Decew and \$442,841 for Welland.

After construction began on the Decew and Welland facilities, built in 1925 and 1923 respectively, "significant" unforeseen issues were found that needed to be addressed, Smeltzer said.

Contingency funds were used to tackle the additional costs, but more funding is still needed, he added.

"We have exceeded the project award, but are within the project budget,"

Public works chairman and Niagara Falls Coun. Bart Maves took issue with the welfare afforded to staff to move between the contracted amount and initial budgeted cost.

A project could initially be estimated at \$30 million and then a bid selected at \$10 million, he said. "That doesn't mean it's OK to go up to \$30 million."

Staff must come back to council for approval of contract changes for projects that exceed \$5 million. But the related bylaw is not written in a way that requires approval prior to money being spent, said Helen Chamberlain, director of financial management and planning.

Approval could also be granted afterward.

"That will change moving forward with a new financial management system now in place at the Region, she said. It will limit spending to the contract amount until approval is granted.

Smeltzer said the additional work required at Decew has been completed,

despite not yet having council's approval for the extra spending. The extra work in Welland has not yet taken place.

St. Catharines Coun. Andy Petrovski raised concern that money had already been spent before council was able to have a say.

He also grew frustrated as he spoke about the near \$3 million in change orders the two projects stacked up.

Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop noted his discomfort with the way the project update was being presented.

"It might be more helpful if the information came in a more timely fashion," he said.

He felt the process wasn't open and transparent, as it was coming to council "after the fact."

Both projects required some redesign to accommodate issues that were encountered, which increased construction and engineering costs, Smeltzer said.

The Decew project, which includes a building addition and filter rehabilitation, ran into facility infrastructure and site challenges related to safety and construction, including mechanical and chemical equipment upgrades, in-field piping modifications and roadway reconstruction to accommodate heavy single truck traffic.

The Welland project had issues with operational improvements and site challenges related to alignment changes to a valve chamber, new LED lighting, new reservoir dewatering and flushing system improvements, backwash piping modifications to improve efficiencies, improved safety access, backfilling and structural modifications.

St. Catharines Coun. Brian Heit felt any add-ons to the projects should have immediately come back to council for approval before any work was completed.

Councillors are the "watchdogs" for those taxpayer dollars, he said.

"I don't want to be told after the fact that the money has been spent. Transparency is letting us know when something's going to happen, not telling us after the fact and then saying we're transparent."

The additional spends were ultimately approved by committee. Thursday council sought ratification.

The Decew project, awarded to Baseline Constructors Inc., is nearly complete, with only minor cleanup work left.

The Welland project, awarded to Romag Construction Ltd., is expected to be finished by the end of October.



Work on the expansion of the Niagara Region water treatment plant on Welland's Morritt Island is shown in this November 2014 photo.

Propagation Ban and Sampling of Plants Susceptible to Plum Pox Virus

Between May and October 2016, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will be inspecting selected rural and residential properties in the Niagara Region, to sample susceptible trees for the Plum Pox Virus and/or to verify compliance with the propagation ban that is in place. This means that property owners may see CFIA inspectors on their property.

The Niagara Region is currently under federal quarantine. Regulations are in place to prevent the spread of plum pox virus outside of the quarantine area. Plum Pox Virus is a serious plant disease that threatens Canada's stone fruit industry. It does not affect human or animal health.

Plants that are susceptible to the virus include apricot, nectarine, peach and, plum trees, and some ornamental shrubs such as purpleleaf sandcherry.

A ban on propagation is in place. This ban prohibits anyone in the Niagara quarantine area from producing trees and plants that are susceptible to the virus. This includes producing trees and plants from seed, cuttings, grafting or any other method.

For a listing of the regulated plants and more information about the regulated area, please contact the CFIA at:

905-938-5060 or www.inspection.gc.ca



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